# 13th Annual Report

The D.C. Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION/DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

# THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT to the Council of the District of Columbia

#### HISTORIC LANDMARK AND HISTORIC DISTRICT PROTECTION ACT OF 1978

Fiscal Year 1991

#### **Executive Summary**

The District of Columbia enacted one of the most progressive historic preservation laws in the country in 1978. The Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act (D.C. Law 2-144) established a firm commitment to historic preservation in the nation's capital. The programs established under this mandate not only enhance the quality of life and promote appreciation of the city's cultural heritage, but also serve as critical planning tools, fostering cooperation among the private sector, community leaders, and government officials in guiding economic growth and development.

Among its provisions, the Historic Protection Act provides for an Annual Report to the City Council on the implementation of the process it established. This report records the activities and accomplishments of the city's historic preservation program during Fiscal Year 1991.

Each year the District of Columbia also receives an apportionment from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. As a participant in the Federal program, the District is responsible for directing the preservation programs established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The results of these activities, conducted in accordance with Federal regulations and nationwide preservation standards, are also described in this report.

Responsibility for administering the District's historic preservation programs rests with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Mayor's Agent for D. C. Law 2-144, and the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), all appointed by the Mayor. Program activities are conducted by the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, which includes a professional staff representing the disciplines of history, architectural history, architecture, and archaeology, together with grants management specialists and support personnel. This report was prepared by the Historic Preservation Division on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

#### PROGRAM GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FISCAL YEAR 1991

The historic preservation program targets three long-term goals essential to implementing the mandate of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan:

- to complete the cultural resources survey of the city;
- to expand historic preservation programs to engage new users; and,
- to ensure effective protection for historic properties.

These goals influence all aspects of the program, including preservation planning, identification and recognition of historic resources, protection and enhancement of designated properties, and public outreach and involvement.

During FY 1991, the preservation program made significant progress toward meeting these long-term goals, despite constraints on available resources. The Historic Preservation Division implemented a new computerized information system to manage historic survey data, and furthered its long-term survey effort by completing several major surveys. The Division distributed the "Grassroots Handbook" to all Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and the newly produced map of historic landmarks and districts was also widely distributed. The Division also continued to devote a substantial proportion of its resources to protection activity, including significant initiatives directed toward historic landscapes, government-owned properties, and new development within historic neighborhoods.

#### PRESERVATION PLANNING

The District's preservation planning effort conforms to the National Park Service model for identifying and evaluating resources in terms of thematic aspects of the city's cultural heritage, or "historic contexts." The goal of the preservation planning program is to provide a rational and effective guide for the multi-year effort to complete the city survey, and to serve as a basis for evaluation and protection of the historic environment. Major preservation planning efforts during FY 1991 included:

**Historic Context Plan** 

Completion of the first edition of an overall "historic context" plan for D.C. historic resources

**Automated Data Processing System** 

Implementation of the D.C. Integrated Preservation Software (DCIPS) to store and manage historic survey information

#### SURVEY AND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The Historic Preservation Division sponsors an active program to survey and inventory historic resources in all parts of the city. Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, community associations, non-profit organizations, preservation professionals, and educational insitutions all participate in undertaking survey efforts, which are funded with Federal grant assistance. Historic resource surveys conducted or initiated during FY 1991 included:

# Logan Circle Area Survey (Phase II)

Comprehensive historic resources survey of the area surrounding the Logan Circle Historic District

#### L'Enfant Plan Survey

Phase I of a two-year study of the major elements of the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans for the city

# Historic Landscapes Survey

Preparation of a methodology for evaluating historic landscapes and open spaces, and a preliminary city-wide survey

# Warehouse Survey

Comprehensive survey of warehouses and related industrial buildings along railroad corridors, particularly in the Union Station area

### Banks and Financial Institutions Survey

City-wide survey of banks and financial institutions

#### **Downtown Office Building Survey**

Comprehensive survey of historic office buildings in the area from Union Station to Foggy Bottom

#### Northern Shaw/Strivers' Section Survey

Reconnaissance survey of the neighborhood surrounding the U Street corridor

#### Southwest Quadrant Archaeological Survey

Archaeological overview of the Southwest Quadrant of the L'Enfant city

#### HISTORIC LANDMARK AND HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATIONS

The Historic Preservation Review Board evaluates and designates properties worthy of recognition for their contribution to the cultural heritage of the District. During FY 1991, the Board designated 14 new landmark properties for inclusion in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites. The following is a brief description of these properties, with their dates of designation:

#### Alban Towers (and Interiors)

3700 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Exceptionally fine example of the superior design and craftsmanship of 1920s luxury apartment buildings; affords spectacular views from one of the city's highest and most visually prominent points; illustrates the growing importance of tenant amenities and convenience shops; product of prominent Washington architect/developer team; highly articulated Tudor Revival/Art Deco facade with courtyards and projecting porches; 6 stories, tan brick and limestone; extensive exterior and interior ornamentation; built 1928, Robert 0. Scholz, architect, David A. Baer, developer; designated interiors include lobbies and hallways; DC 5/15/91

#### **Brownley Building**

1309 F Street, NW

One of the last remaining Art Deco commercial buildings downtown, built for Brownley's Confectionery; limestone facade with decorative aluminum spandrel panels; important work of local architects prominent during the interwar years; built 1932, Porter & Lockie, architects; DC 4/24/91

#### Cardozo Senior High School (Central High School)

13th and Clifton Streets, NW

The city's largest and most elaborate high school, successor to Washington High School (opened 1882); work of nationally prominent school architect from St. Louis; recognized as a showcase in the development of an appropriate building form for public schools; extensive specialized facilities reflect progressive educational philosophy of fostering student health and social welfare in addition to academic needs; Elizabethan style building and athletic facilities on extraordinary terraced and landscaped site with commanding views over the city; served as prototype for subsequent public schools; embodies origins of city's high schools and evolution from a segregated to integrated system; memorial to Francis L. Cardozo, prominent late-19th century black educator and principal of M Street High School; built 1914-16, William B. Ittner, architect; DC 6/19/91; DC ownership

# Carnegie Institution of Washington, Geophysical Laboratory 2801 Upton Street, NW

One of five scientific resarch centers of the institution founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1902; site of important scientific achievements and contributions to primary geophysical research; represents aspirations of prominent leaders in science and public affairs to develop Washington as a center of research; notable work of prominent local architects; Mediterranean Revival structure commanding a steeply sloped and landscaped site; stucco facades, hipped tile roof with bracketed eaves, polychromatic brickwork; isolated siting and specialized construction represent significant engineering achievements in meeting technical needs of geophysical laboratory. Built 1906-07, Wood, Donn & Deming, architects; designation includes main building, power plant, x-ray laboratory, and site; DC 5/29/91

#### Eastern Market (Interiors)

7th and C Streets, SE

One of three remaining public markets, constructed on a model market plan developed by the city's premier post-Civil War architect; important document of civic improvement during the prolific public works era of Boss Shepherd; notable achievement in the development of modern, clean, and efficient public services; spurred development of commercial and residential growth in the area; addition a notable work of the Office of the Building Inspector. South Hall built 1873, Adolph Cluss, architect; Italianate style, red brick, one story with hipped roof, round and arched windows, deep corbels, robust expression. North and Center Halls built 1908, Snowden Ashford, architect; similar design with more classical detail. Open-span interiors with exposed trusses, well-preserved utilitarian finishes; vaulted brick basement; cast iron structural elements, monitor skylights. Designated interiors include North Hall, Center Hall, and South Hall with stairhall, "apartments," Market Master's Office on mezzanine, and basement: DC 11/8/64 (interiors 8/21/91), NR 5/27/71; Capitol Hill HD; DC ownership

#### Germuiller Row

748 3rd Street, NW; 300-02 H Street, NW

Prominent ensemble of Victorian era red brick rowhouses by one of the city's most prolific architects; exemplifies late-19th century coordination of residential and commercial architecture; significant remnant of early

neighborhood around Judiciary Square; 300 H Street (commercial building with mortar and pestle on cornice) built 1890, Julius Germuiller, architect; 748 3rd Street (one of four original rowhouses) built 1891, Julius Germuiller, architect; 302 H Street (rowhouse) built 1888, possibly by Germuiller; DC 1/16/91

# **Grace Reformed Church, Sunday School, and Parish House** 1405 15th Street, NW

National memorial of the Reformed Church in the United States; Washington congregation established 1868, located on this site since 1880; associated with Theodore Roosevelt, who laid cornerstone and attended regularly during presidency; Gothic Revival church and Sunday School buildings in Cleveland greystone by the architect of the Library of Congress; iconographic sculpture by James F. Earley; Parish House built 1892, W.H.H. Knight, architect; Church built 1902-03, Paul J. Pelz and A.A. Ritcher, architects; Sunday School (Akron style plan) built 1911-12, Paul J. Pelz, architect; DC 1/16/91, NR 4/18/91

#### Harris & Ewing Photographic Studio

1311-13 F Street, NW

Constructed for Harris & Ewing, Washington's most noted portrait photographers from 1905 to 1955; official White House photographer and and prolific documenters of historical figures and events; home of nation's largest early-20th century news photo service; Italian Renaissance Revival facade exemplifies 1920s neoclassicism; large studios with expansive windows at rear; built 1924 to replace previous structure occupied by Harris & Ewing from 1905, Sonneman & Justement, architects; DC 4/24/91

# Kingman Apartment Building (President Monroe)

423-25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Early apartment building documenting the emergence of the new building type and 20th century classicism; last remaining apartment building by Washington architect noted for apartment design; buff brick Classical Revival facade with round bays and central portico; developed by Alonzo Bliss, fabulously successful cure-all manufacturer; illustrates influence of wealthy investors on Washington real estate development; built 1902, Albert Goenner, architect; DC 1/16/91

#### **Manhattan Laundry**

1326-46 Florida Avenue, NW

Complex of vernacular and designed commercial structures representing more than 50 years of commercial growth; illustrates expansion of urban core and industrial development along Florida Avenue; first housed traction facility for company chartered 1862; converted to printing plant in 1892 and to laundry in 1905; laundry's administrative office a notable expression of commercial wealth, and among the city's finest Art Deco designs; extensive use of glass block, enamelled metal panels, and other innovative materials in classically-inspired facade; West Building includes Washington & Georgetown Railroad Co. Car Barn (built 1877, John B. Brady, architect), steam plant (built 1908, alterations c. 1914 and 1923), and addition (built 1926, A.S.J. Atkinson, architect); South Building includes stable and warehouse (built 1911); East Building includes rug cleaning plant and garage/dry cleaning facility (built 1936, Alexander M. Pringle, architect); Administrative Offices built 1936-37, Bedford Brown, architect; DC 6/19/91

#### McMillan Park Reservoir

1st Street and Michigan Avenue, NW

Washington's first water treatment facility and a major component of the municipal water system, constructed on the site of springs identified as a water source by L'Enfant; served the U.S. Capitol beginning in 1833; New City Reservoir constructed to receive Potomac River water via the Washington Aqueduct and Georgetown Reservoir. Filtration plant (operational in 1905) a notable engineering and aesthetic achievement; includes underground slow sand purification system advocated by the city's medical community in preference to chemical treatment; caused elimination of typhoid epidemics and reduced incidence of other diseases; unified complex of red brick buildings, Flemish bond with tile roofs, and more utilitarian concrete structures. Major component of the city's park system; collaborative effort of prominent figures in the City Beautiful movement; memorial to Senator James McMillan, sponsor of the Senate Park Designation covers the Reservoir (built 1883-88, U.S. Army Commission. Corps of Engineers); Smith Spring House (built 1886, T.W. Symons, architect); East Shaft Gate House (built 1901, Henry A. Macomb, architect); Pumping Station, Circulating Conduit, Gatehouse, Intake Gatehouse, Control House, Laboratory, Shelter House, Engine House, Regulator Houses, Filtration Beds, Sand Washers, Sand Bins, and Clear Water Reservoir (built 1904-05, Allen Hazen, architect); McMillan Park (built 1906-13, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., landscape architect); Storehouse, Shelter House and Garage (built 1911); McMillan Fountain (erected 1913. Herbert Adams, sculptor, Charles Adams Platt, architect; dismantled 1941) and Chemical Tower, Flume Building, and Gatehouse (built 1939); DC 8/21/91; US and DC ownership

#### Meridian Hall

2401 15th Street, NW

Tudor Revival mansion by one of city's leading Beaux-Arts architects; commissioned by Mary F. Henderson, the guiding force behind development of 16th Street and the Meridian Hill area as an enclave of embassies and mansions; briefly used as an embassy as intended; scored stucco facade evocative of an English manor house, with large arched portal, panels of casement windows, cast stone quatrefoil ornamentation; interior features grand central staircase, salons, ballroom, and dining hall ornamented in Tudor classical style; built 1923, George Oakley Totten, Jr., architect; DC 12/19/90, NR 1/28/91

# Miner Building

2565 Georgia Avenue, NW

Home of Miner Normal School and Miner Teachers College, centers for the training of Washington's black teachers for almost 80 years; associated with Myrtilla Miner, 19th century educational pioneer; notable early example of school building using Colonial Revival style; built 1913-14, Leon E. Dessez, architect, Snowden Ashford, supervising architect; DC 1/16/91

#### **Woodlawn Cemetery**

4611 Benning Road, NE

Non-denominational, integrated cemetery established 1895; one of the most prestigious burying grounds for black Washingtonians until the 1930s; contains monuments to notable African-Americans including Blanche K. Bruce and John Mercer Langston; site of an estimated 20,000 pauper's graves and

many burials reinterred from earlier cemeteries dating from 1798; curvilinear plan on hilly terrain, park-like setting with irregular burial sections and simple stone markers; DC 6/19/91

#### NOMINATIONS TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

In addition to local historic designation, the Historic Preservation Review Board also recommends properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Nominations to the National Register are made by the State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia. During FY 1991, the following properties nominated by the SHPO were listed in the National Register (with their dates of inclusion):

Corcoran Hall, George Washington University (725 21st Street, NW); 4/12/91 **Dumbarton House** (2715 Q Street, NW): 1/28/91 Georgetown Visitation Convent (1500 35th Street NW); 3/29/91 Grace Reformed Church (1405 15th Street, NW); 4/18/91 Hibbs-Folger Building (725 15th Street, NW); 3/19/91 Lisner Auditorium, GWU (730 21st St, NW); 10/25/90 Meridian Hall (2401 15th Street, NW); 1/28/91 Morrison-Clark Houses (1013-15 L Street, NW); 3/19/91 Pink Palace (2600 16th Street, NW); 8/5/91 Potomac Boat Club (3530 K Street, NW): 6/27/91 President's Office, GWU (700 20th St, NW); 9/13/91 Stockton Hall, GWU (720 20th Street, NW); 9/13/91 Strong Hall, GWU (620 21st Street, NW); 4/12/91 Washington Canoe Club (3700 Water Street, NW); 3/19/91 Wetzel (Alumni) House, GWU (714 21st St. NW): 10/25/90 Wetzell-Archbold Farmstead (4437 Reservoir Road, NW); 4/19/91 Woodhull House, GWU (2033 G Street, NW); 4/12/91

Also during FY 91, the Secretary of the Interior designated St. Elizabeths Hospital a National Historic Landmark (12/14/90).

#### PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The primary tools for protection of historic properties in the District are the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act (D.C. Law 2-144), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

During FY 1991, the Historic Preservation Division and Historic Preservation Review Board considered more than 900 construction permit applications affecting historic properties. The greatest number of these cases involved routine alterations to residential and small commercial buildings in the city's two dozen historic districts. The Board's primary effort was devoted to complex cases involving extensive staff review and intensive citizen participation. Major cases reviewed during the year included:

#### 2225 N Street NW

Rehabilitation and addition to a landmark apartment building adjacent to Rock Creek Park and the DuPont Circle Historic District

#### Wetzell-Archbold Farmstead (4437 Reservoir Road NW)

Rehabilitation of a landmark cabin and construction of new houses in a wooded setting adjacent to Glover-Archbold Park

#### 1323-1327 Mapleview Place, SE

Construction of moderate-income infill housing in the Anacostia Historic District

#### Greystone and Pinecrest (2323 and 2325 Porter Street NW)

Rehabilitation of two landmark buildings and construction of new houses in wooded setting adjacent to Rock Creek Park

#### Calvary Baptist Church (755 8th Street, NW)

Rehabilitation of the church and transfer of development rights

#### Park and Shop (3501 Connecticut Avenue NW)

Restoration and construction of an addition to major commercial structure in Cleveland Park Historic District

#### 2501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Restoration of Luzon Apartments and construction of an addition with offices and apartments

# College Hall, Gallaudet University

Major restoration of landmark building on Gallaudet University campus

# Rock Creek Hotel Site (19th & Belmont Streets, NW)

Construction of 120 condominium apartments on major site in Kalorama Triangle Historic District

#### REVIEW OF FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIONS (SECTION 106 REVIEW)

Projects involving actions by Federal agencies are subject to historic review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. During FY 1991, the State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed almost 200 projects for a determination of historic impacts, and conducted more than 50 in-depth reviews of work affecting historic properties. The largest number of these projects involved single and multi-family housing rehabilitations, alterations to Federal buildings, and projects related to Metro construction.

The Historic Preservation Division also monitors preservation covenants maintained by the District on properties rehabilitated with Federal funding. During FY 1991, major projects reviewed under the Section 106 and covenant monitoring processes included:

#### Taft Bridge

Rehabilitation of historic bridge over Rock Creek Park

#### 800 Block of F Street, NW

Pre-development plans for rehabilitation of landmark block under Pennsylvania Avenue Plan

#### **Eastern Market**

Proposed renovation and upgrading of the city-owned market facility

# U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen's Home

Rehabilitation of buildings on main campus

# **Treasury Department**

Renovation of south plaza and offices

#### Southeast Federal Center

Review of archaeological investigations and proposed demolition for major new Federal office complex in Navy Yard Annex

#### St. Elizabeths Hospital

Preparation of historic resources management plan and review of alterations

#### Korean War Veterans Memorial

Concept designs for major new memorial on the Mall

#### International Cultural and Trade Center

Review of schematic plans for ICTC project in the Federal Triangle

#### PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVES

Federal preservation tax incentives continue to encourage and assist rehabilitation of historic properties, although the number of tax-assisted projects has declined since the mid-1980s due to changes in the tax code. During FY 1991, the SHPO reviewed 36 certification applications from property owners applying for an easement donation or the certified rehabilitation tax credit, mostly for projects involving row houses or small apartment buildings. The largest certified rehabilitation projects were:

#### **Union Station**

Final certification of city's largest rehabilitation project

Warner Apartments (2618-22 13th Street, NW)

Renovation of apartments for moderate-income tenants

Hotel Washington (15th & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW)

Facade restoration and interior upgrading of major dowtown hotel

#### PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Public education and outreach efforts are aimed at encouraging public awareness of preservation programs and activities. Although staff resources for public education were limited during FY 1991, major activities included:

#### **Downtown Walking Brochure**

Financial and technical assistance for preparation of a walking tour brochure guide to downtown historic buildings (prepared by the D.C. Preservation League)

#### Historic Resources Photographic Exhibit

Sponsorship of a traveling exhibit of photographs of historic sites in the city (prepared by the D.C. Preservation League)

# **Historic District Map**

Distribution of new map showing all landmarks and historic districts in the city

#### **APPENDIX**

# Permit Applications Reviewed by the Historic Preservation Review Board and Staff

During FY 1991, the Historic Preservation Review Board and Historic Preservation Division reviewed the following construction permit applications affecting historic properties:

	<u>Alteration</u>	New Construction	<u>Demolition</u>	Subdivision	Concept <u>Review</u>	<u>Total</u>
Historic Landmarks	28	2	2	-	17	49
Historic Districts						
Anacostia	3	3	-	-	-	6
Blagden Alley	2	-	-	-	1	3
Capitol Hill	119	5	2	1	14	141
Cleveland Park	69	-	1	-	18	88
Downtown	5	-	-	-	1	6
DuPont Circle	54	-	1	-	3	58
Fifteenth Street	4	-	-	-	-	3
Foggy Bottom	1	-	-	-	-	1
Georgetown	98	3	3	1	22	127
Kalorama Triangle	28	1	1	-	4	34
LeDroit Park	6	-	1	-	1	8
Logan Circle	3	-	-	-	1	4
Massachusetts Ave	2	-	-	-	-	2
Mount Pleasant	40	-	-	-	5	45
Pennsylvania Ave	8	-	-	-	-	8
Sheridan-Kalorama	26	-	-	-	2	28
Sixteenth Street	1	-	-	-	-	1
Strivers' Section	18	-	-	-	-	18
Takoma Park	6	-	-	-	2	8
Woodley Park	8	-	-	-	-	8
Miscellaneous*						277
Total						923

<sup>\*</sup>Miscellaneous applications include street closings, D.C. interagency review, petitions for emergency review, determinations of eligibility (for waivers of parking and off-street loading requirements and exceptions to bed & breakfast regulations), review of in-kind repair or replacement, clearance of raze applications, and referrals from the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

#### Public Hearings Held by the Mayor's Agent

The Mayor's Agent held public hearings on the following case in FY 1991:

2129 Wyoming Avenue, NW

Hearing dates: 10/18/90; 11/1/90; 3/6/91

Nature of request: Partial demolition; preservation of facades and

a portion of main building

Reason for hearing: Required by law for demolition

Claim of economic hardship? No

Resolution of issue: Decision pending

Decisions are also pending in the following cases:

3017 Orchard Lane, NW

Nature of permit request: Rear addition

Reason for hearing: Denial recommended by Commission of Fine Arts

Claim of economic hardship? No

336 Maryland Avenue, NE

Nature of permit request: Curb cut and driveway
Reason for hearing: Denial recommended by HPRB

Claim of economic hardship? No

10 8th Street, SE

Nature of permit request: Window alterations

Reason for hearing: Denial recommended by HPRB

Claim of economic hardship? No

Hecht's Department Store

Nature of permit request: Partial demolition; preservation of facades and a

portion of main building

Reason for hearing: Required by law for demolition

Claim of economic hardship? No

Status: Proceedings suspended at request of applicant

#### Certified Rehabilitations in the District of Columbia

During FY 1991, the State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed and forwarded to the National Park Service the following applications for certification under the federal preservation tax incentive program. These projects represented a total investment of more than \$90 million in certified rehabilitation, with an additional \$125 million investment in related new construction.

#### Historic Landmarks

Mayflower Hotel Union Station

Warner Apartments (2618-22 13th Street, NW)

Capitol Hill Historic District

423 1st Street SE

129 6th Street NE

214 E Street NE

715 G Street SE

708	I Stree	et SE		
645	Acker	Street N	ΙE	
1000	East	Capitol	Street	NE
1226	North	Carolina	a Aveni	Ie.

#### Cleveland Park Historic District

3312 35th Street NW

# **Dupont Circle Historic District**

1301 Connecticut Avenue NW

1743 P Street NW

1767 P Street NW

# Georgetown Historic District

1211 29th Street NW

1527 35th Street NW

3316 N Street NW

# Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site

999 E Street NW Hotel Washington

# 1000 Block of Seventh Street NW

1013-15 7th Street NW

# Sixteenth Street Historic District

1846 16th Street NW